

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 /063 W

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O R 251703Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0987

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10277

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, GW

SUBJECT: OFFSET AGREEMENT

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM VARIOUS AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN BONN THAT THEY ATTENDED A PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY FOREIGN OFFICE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERMES WHO RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ON THE OFFSET AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, HERMES, WHO WAS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH, STATED THAT WHILE HE WAS AWARE THAT THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WAS ABOUT TO EXPIRE, THE MATTER OF NEGOTIATING A NEW AGREEMENT WAS "NOT AN ACTUAL QUESTION." THE CORRESPONDENTS UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER BY THE WORD "ACTUAL" HERMES MEANT "CURRENT" OR "REAL". IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF WHETHER A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT WAS ABOUT TO BE SIGNED SINCE THE CURRENT ONE WAS ABOUT TO EXPIRE, ACCORDING TO OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, HERMES RESPONDED WITH: "WHY, SHOULD IT?" HE REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO RHETORICALLY ASK, "WAS THERE A REASON FOR IT?" NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME CONCERNING HERMES' REMARKS.

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2. SUBSEQUENTLY, DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE
AFTERNOON OF JUNE 25, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS ASKED:

"MR. CHANCELLOR: THE PRESENT OFFSET-AGREEMENT
WITH THE UNITED STATES IS ENDING ABOUT THESE DAYS.
HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE INTENTION TO CONCLUDE
A NEW ONE?" SCHMIDT REPLIED:

"I AM HESITATING AS I HAD HOPED I WOULD FIND A
HUMOROUS ANSWER - BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. -- I
CONSIDER IT - AT THE MOMENT - NOT AS AN URGENT
PROBLEM."
HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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